

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 FTC-01

JUSE-00 SEC-01 /106 W

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R 221605Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8993

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 2885

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: U.S. PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 179170

1. ECMIN HAD BRIEF OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED
REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR MONDELLO (DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) JULY 21. WITHOUT
REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO NEW PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY ILLICIT PAYMENTS PROBLEM, MONDELLO
CONFIRMED CONTINUED STRONG ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL.
HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THAT GOI, CONTRARY TO EARLIER STATEMENT
(ROME 10727), WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CO-SPONSOR. MONDELLO
REPORTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED ISSUE PERSONALLY WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER RUMOR AND PRIME MINISTER MORO. LATTER HAD DECIDED,
HE SAID, AGAINST CO-SPONSORSHIP IN ORDER TO LESSEN RISK OF
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QTE POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE UNQTE AND OF CAUSING QTE

POLEMICS UNQTE DOMESTICALLY.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PLICTICAL LEADERSHIP OVERRULED SENIOR BUREAUCRATS ON THIS ISSUE. CAUTION OF RUMOR AND MORO NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISING IN THAT BOTH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF ACCUSATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH LOCKHEED SCANDAL. FURTHER REASON FOR LYING LOW ON ISSUE IS FACT THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOW ENGAGED IN DELICATE TASK OF SEEKING TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION.

3. AS AGREED DURING JULY 21 CONVERSATIONS, EMBASSY SENT MONDELLO AIDE MEMOIRE JULY 22 WITH DETAILS ON U.S. CONCERNS, BASED ON PARA 2 REFTEL. ALTHOUGH MONDELLO UNAVAILABLE DURING THE DAY, EDMIN SPOKE TO COUNSELOR MINGAZZINI, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE UNDER MONDELLO RESPONSIBLE FOR ECOSOC. MINGAZZINI REPEATED MONDELLO'S REMAKRS THAT GOI CONTINUED TO SUPPORT U.S. PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN PROPOSAL. INDEED, HE REPORTED THAT MINISTRY HAS JUST RECEIVED RUN-DOWN ON ECOSOC MEETING FROM ITS MISSION IN GENEVA AND ALTHOUGH MANY MINOR MATTERS WERE MENTIONED, THERE WAS NO INFORMATION ON ANY NEW PROPOSALS. MINGAZZINI PROMISED TO CONTACT EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN GOI POSITION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

4. EMBASSY WILL DOUBLE-CHECK WITH MINGAZZINI OR MONDELLO ON JULY 23 AND, IN ANY EVENT, IT WILL CONTACT MINISTER MIGLIUOLO, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOI COORDINATION ON THIS ISSUE, UPON LATTER'S RETURN TO ROME JULY 26. VOLPE

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